

GERHARD VON MENDE

1. personal

- a. Full name: Gerhard von MENDE, @ Georg METRIVELLI.
- b. Born: 25 December 1904, Riga, Latvia.
- c. Father: Johannes von MENDE, bank director in Mitau (Latvia). Killed by the Communists in March 1919, apparently because of his position and conservative leanings.
- d. Mother: Luise nee KONIG von MENDE, last lived at Hartenstein in the Erzgebirge.
- e. Brothers: Hans von MENDE, born 1907, engineer with the Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nürnberg (M.A.N.), Berlin, last in the Wehrmacht as a common soldier.
Kurt von MENDE, born 1910, syndic with Henckell-Donnersmarch in Kattowitz, Upper Silesia, released from an American PW camp, last in Augsburg, Rosenaustrasse 35.
Walter von MENDE, born 1912, captain, was killed in action on the Eastern Front, 1942.
Victor von MENDE, born 1919, engineer, Zwickau, Reichstrasse 1, last sergeant in the Luftwaffe, stationed in East Prussia.
- f. Sisters: Irene ADOLPHI, born 1903, last in Leuna.
Anna-Luise HAASE, born 1916, last at Wolkensteinerstrasse, Annaberg (Erzgebirge).
Elsa LANDGRAF, last in Oberschlema (Erzgebirge).
- g. Wife: Karoline nee ESPESETT, born 15 December 1903, in Hangesurd, Norway, a writer, last at Uebelngönne.
- h. Children: Bugljob von MENDE, born 1937; Erling von MENDE, born 1940.
- i. Citizenship: taken to Germany after his father's death, lived on a Nansen pass for stateless refugees until 1924, became a naturalized German citizen in 1924.
- j. Personal description: 5 ft.8; about 140 lbs; slender; light blond hair; light blue eyes; light complexion; one tooth in lower jaw protruding noticeably; courteous; moody; gives impression of fairly young, relatively insignificant person; obviously very clever and seems to lead.

2. Education

- a. 1914-1919, preparatory school of Mrs. Teich in Mitau.
- b. 1919, the Landesschule (high school) in Mitau and the Balteaschule in Miskolc.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

- c. 1920-1923, the Landesschule Pforta (Northern Germany), graduated 1923.
- d. 1927-February 1929, University of Berlin, "Orientalistik" (Seminar for Oriental Languages), Eastern European history and law. Got a diploma (no equivalent in American universities).
- e. 1929-1930, went to Paris as an exchange student and studied at the faculté de droit of the Sorbonne and at the Ecole nationale des langues orientales vivantes, receiving a diploma in Turkish in 1930.
- f. 1930-1931, University of Berlin.
- g. 1932-1933, University of Breslau, got Ph.D in 1933, dissertation entitled, "Studien über die Kolonisation der Sowjetunion" (Studies on the Colonization of the Soviet Union).
- h. 1933, received a research scholarship from the Emergency Association of German Sciences

3. Employment and Professional Experience.

- a. June 1923-October 1927, worked as an office clerk, then as a shipping clerk for the shipping and dispatching company of F.H. Bertling in Lübeck.
- b. 1934-1937, advisor for Kulturpolitik in the German Academic Exchange Service, Berlin.
- c. 1935-1937, advisor in the foreign section of the Education Ministry.
- d. In December 1935, became instructor of Russlandkunde (Russian Affairs) at the Wirtschaftshochschule (College of Economics) in Berlin.
- e. In April 1936, was recognized as Privatdozent (unsalaried teacher) for Russische Nationalwissenschaft (Russian National Affairs) at the Auslandshochschule (College for Foreign Affairs) in Berlin.
- f. In October 1939, was appointed Ausserordentlicher Professor (university lecturer) for Foreign Affairs at the University of Berlin.
- g. In October 1942, he became full professor at the University of Posen and in 1943, at the University of Berlin.
- h. In June 1941, ordered by the Wehrmacht to report to the Ostministerium. Not given any responsible assignment but served in various minor assignments where an intimate knowledge of Eastern affairs was needed. Eventually became head of the Caucasus Section which was later changed into Abteilung Fremde Völker (Section for Foreign, i.e. non-Russian, Nations). In this capacity maintained contact with most of the Eastern nationalities through national Leitstellen (control offices) of the Ostministerium and through the national Verbindungsstäbe (liaison committees). His office also directed activities at the Ostministerium camp of Wustrau, a training camp for collaborators of Eastern nationalities. His contact with the RSHA was allegedly limited to requests for clearance of non-Germans

with whom he intended to work. Also helped organize the propaganda program for Veneta of the Propagandaministerium.

- i. Von Mende's Ph.D. dissertation (see 2,g) was published as a book in 1933 by Briebatsch in Breslau. In 1936, wrote a paper entitled, "Der Nationale Kampf der Russland-Türken" (National Struggle of the Turks in Russia). In 1938 "Die Sowjetunion" was published and used as a standard work in the Ostministerium. All the first editions available were later destroyed and a second edition published entitled, "Die Völker des Ostens". Von Mende disapproved highly of this edition. In addition collaborated with three other Georgians, all being held in an U.S. interrogation center, on thirty-six papers dealing with national groups in Russia, Nazi administrative problems and methods in Eastern Europe and the organization of the Ostministerium. (1945)

4. Military Experience.

Deferred from active duty in the Wehrmacht at the request of the University of Berlin, but later ordered to report to the Ostministerium by the Wehrmacht.

5. Residence and Travel

- a. Born 1904, Riga, Latvia.
- b. 1914-1919, Mitau, Latvia.
- c. June 1923-October 1927, Lubeck.
- d. 1927-1929, Berlin.
- e. 1929-1930, Paris.
Also took a trip to Turkey in 1930.
- f. 1931, Berlin.
- g. 1932-1933, Breslau.
- h. 1934-1945, Berlin (in 1942, was in Turkey with Legationsrat Dittman)
April 1936-1937, Berlin W. 35, Friedrich-Wilhelmstr. 11.
1937-November 1943, " " " " 10
November 1943, bombed out.
- i. April 1945, left Berlin for Geneva.
- j. Extra "camp" of the International Red Cross. Really lived in a private home or apartment in Höchst, Austria.
- k. Moved to U.S. interrogation centers at Wiesbaden and then Oberusel.
- l. On 23 August 1945, taken to Uebelungsanne in the British Zone.

6. Political Affiliations

Never belonged to any political party or organization. Opposed Nazi foreign policy. According to MEDIA (see Friends and Acquaintances below) von Mende supported and aided the Caucasian National Committee and continually exposed himself to dangers working against the declared policy of the Ostministerium.

In his diary, von Mende expressed hope of gaining American confidence. He complained about special privileges accorded to

former Nazis and SS personnel by the Allies. He condemned completely BRENNER and ROSENBERG, head of the Post-Ministerium. He apparently felt that he was being mishandled by the Americans at the interrogation center and protested the check made into his past activities. He felt he had something to offer the Americans and complained of indecision about his case. He was also fearful that the Allies did not appreciate the time element involved in the East-West struggle and that the Bolsheviks would triumph.

7. Opinions and Prejudices.

In his diary, von MÜNDE said that the characterization (presumably Nazi) of the Poles was perhaps not unjustified. He wrote that the Poles he had met at the I.R.C. camp in 1945 were the most undisciplined people he had ever met. He expressed a dislike of Poles and Hungarians (bad manners). By contrast, Germans are decent and active. At Wiesbaden, he noted that Americans, with the exception of sergeants, were very polite and friendly. Later he complained about American treatment saying that he had not met a single American who keeps his promise.

In his diary he betrayed his German nationalism. He stated that the German solution must be a national solution. A new Versailles would herald in the ruin of Europe. The breaking up of Germany means eternal chaos. A strong Germany is necessary to fight off the Eastern danger.

During an interrogation on 8 August 1945, he warned against the Russian emigration. Felt that the Russian emigres had the political concepts of the 19th. Century and no idea of modern social institutions. Their idea was to return to St. Petersburg and be reinstated in their antiquated functions. On 11 August 1945, said that the plan for German colonization of Russia as far as the Dnieper was sheer nonsense. Said that the Caucasians, White Ruthenians and Ukrainians were even more highly individualistic than the Russians and therefore originally were opposed to the Soviet system of collectivization.

8. Operational Suggestions

During interrogations, in his diary and in written reports submitted during the interrogation period, von MÜNDE frequently discussed the success and extent of German operations into Russia. Details of these operations and projects such as the ZEPPELIN Project, with which von MÜNDE was particularly well acquainted, are already known. There was some information of a more general nature which might be interesting.

In view of the total mobilization of Soviet manpower, the Germans found that a civilian cover for an agent was not safe. The Russians did not share the German craze for documents.

and any person in Soviet territory was subject to a detailed interrogation about his business, his movements etc. Only a very few agents could be expected to pass such interrogations safely. Von MENDE did not recommend the use of emigres as agents because they were not acquainted with recent developments, are easily discovered in view of their ignorance of the recent slang and can not be given an up-to-date briefing because of constant changes in local Soviet administration. According to von MENDE a German was never used for a long range mission. Because of the distances involved, radio contact from within Russia was difficult.

Von MENDE said that the route taken into the Caucasus, particularly by the Azerbaijanis, was: Teheran-Tebriz-Reszt (port)-Baku. A good deal of transit trade ~~trade~~ moved along the Reszt-Baku line. There was also an overland connection into the Caucasus by way of southern Azerbaijan. Turkestans went primarily by way of Mezhed. Germans could not easily check these routes as there was no direct information chain between Teheran and Germany.

Von MENDE mentioned Tartar groups in Finland which did good service for the Finnish Intelligence during the first Russo-Finnish War (1936). Most of the Tartars live in Helsinki and Taanerfors. Von MENDE said that even salesgirls in fur shops in Stockholm had acted as intermediaries between Constantinople and the Finnish groups of Tartars. The route used was Harbin-Turkey-Germany-Stockholm-Finland. Von MENDE indicated that the Tartar group in Finland was very loyal to the Caucasian cause and were successful in their attempts to evacuate some Caucasian members of the Red Army, taken prisoners by the Finns, to the U.S.

Von MENDE considered the Tartars definitely interested in an intelligence work directed against the U.S.S.R. though would offer their services only to those who could make concrete offers to them in terms of their own political plans.

9. Friends and Acquaintances

- ALCHIBAJA, Michael Born: 12-11-08. Georgian.
 (also ALSCHIBAJA and ALSCHIBAJA, Michael)
 GABELADZE Jr. Last known address: Munich, Monsalvatstr. 7.
 Discharged from service to an American
 intelligence agency for security reasons.
 With von MENDE at U.S. interrogation center
 in 1945. Considered cleverest of the four
 Georgians there at that time.
- GABELADZE, Givi Dr. Born 19 December 1919 in Russia. Caucasian.
 Married to ALCHIBAJA's sister, Russudan.
 With von MENDE at U.S. interrogation center

FRENZEL, fnu	In charge of the Wustrau camp.
GRASNOV, General	Old, popular Cossack general. Involved in plans of the Ostministerium.
HUMPF, fnu	Director of Veneta, a part of the Propagandaministerium.
KAYUM-KHAN	Von MENDE believed he could be of use in Eastern operations and made a report to this effect at the interrogation center, 1945.
KNUEPFER, Dr.	An assistant to Von MENDE at the Ostministerium.
KEDIA	With Von MENDE at the interrogation center 1945. Probably has the most influence in the Georgian group. Helped in formulations of plans for Russo-German war and establishment of the Caucasian components of the Wehrmacht.
KOCH, Hans Professor	Advised Ostministerium on Ukrainian questions.
LANGE, Captain.	Head of an Abwehr project to train and dispatch Caucasian sabotage units.
NEUBACHER, fnu	A Caucasian, at interrogation center with von MENDE in 1945.
PUENER, Oberstlt.	Assigned Abwehr III (c/i). Worked with the General of the Volunteer Units.
SIMULENBURG, Count	Friend of Von MENDE. Possibly sent to a "concentration" camp 20 July 1945.
TURNER, fnu.	Handled von MENDE at the Wiesbaden center.
WAEIJEN	Von MENDE described him 1 August 1945 as a "American agent". Also possibly had connections with Abwehr. Supported a plan for a Pan-Turkish solution to the Near East problem. Von MENDE was opposed to the idea. A personal antagonism between them existed.
ZOMAJA, Alexander (also TSOMAJA)	With von MENDE at the interrogation center center in 1945. A Georgian. "Worked" for the Third Army.